










Your Baby's Hearing

Congratulations on the birth of your baby!

Babies should have their hearing screened before leaving the hospital. Most babies pass the initial hearing screening, but certain risk factors may increase the chances of a hearing loss developing later.

-  Spent 48 hours or more in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at birth
-  Mother has an infection during pregnancy, such as CMV, rubella, and other infections
-  Family history of childhood permanent hearing loss
-  Jaundice, with a blood transfusion
-  Head and face anomalies
-  ECMO, special blood exchange
-  Bacterial infection, such as meningitis
-  Serious head injury, needing medical care
-  Frequent ear infections

It's important to detect a hearing loss before language development and learning is affected. If you have concerns about your baby's hearing, speech or language skills, be sure to discuss them with your doctor.

South Dakota Department of Health
Newborn Hearing Screening Program
(605) 773-3737
www.state.sd.us/doh/hearing

Speech, Language and Hearing Skills

The development of speech and language skills begins the first 6 months of life. Listed are some age-related guidelines, called **Milestones**, to help in watching your child's development.

Birth to 3 Months

- ☞ Startles by loud noises
- ☞ Soothed by familiar voices
- ☞ Squeals, coos, laughs, gurgles
- ☞ Makes vowel sounds like – ohh, ahh

3 – 6 Months

- ☞ Makes a variety of sounds, such as “ba-ba:” “gaba:” “ma”
- ☞ Seems to enjoy babbling
- ☞ Uses a variety of pitches
- ☞ Likes sound-making toys
- ☞ Turns eyes and head to sounds, including your voice

6 – 9 Months

- ☞ Responds to her or his own name
- ☞ Imitates speech by making non-speech sounds: coughing, clicking tongue, smacking lips
- ☞ Plays with sound through repetition: “la-la-la”
- ☞ Understands “no” and “bye-bye”
- ☞ Says “da – da” or “ma – ma”
- ☞ Responds to music or singing

9 – 12 Months

- ☞ Responds differently to happy or angry talking
- ☞ Turns head toward loud or soft sound
- ☞ Jabbers in response to human voice
- ☞ Uses two or three words in addition to “da – da” or “ma – ma”
- ☞ Gives toys when asked
- ☞ Stops in response to “no”
- ☞ Follows simple directions

12 – 18 Months

- ☞ Identifies people, body parts and toys on request
- ☞ Locates sounds in all directions
- ☞ Names what she or he wants
- ☞ Talks in what sounds like sentences, with few understandable words
- ☞ Gestures with speech
- ☞ Bounces to music
- ☞ Repeats some words you say

18 – 24 Months

- ☞ Follows simple commands
- ☞ Speaks in two-word phrases, somewhat understandable
- ☞ Recognizes sounds in the environment – cars, dogs, vacuum, doorbell
- ☞ Has a vocabulary of 20 words or more